Memorandum by Bihar Chamber of Commerce

785. SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bihar Chamber of Commerce have submitted any memorandum to Planning Commission regarding the backwardness of Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Memorandum relates to low royalty on mineral wealth, freight equalisation policy (on iron and steel), flood and improper harnessing of water resources, low central investment in infrastructure, low central investment in projects, low investment by all India financial institutions and banks and basis of disbursal of central investible funds. As the question involves different Ministries, it will take time to examine it.

National Commission for backward regions

786. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 628 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th September, 1991 and state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to constitute a National Commission for the development of Backward regions in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In our Federal Constitution, States have their own entity and jurisdiction. Development of any area falling within their jurisdiction is primarily their responsibility. It may go against the grain of federal structure if any attempt is made to bring under Central control all backward areas of the country.

Panel to review projects behind schedule

787. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a high powered panel to review mega and major projects running behind schedule;

(b) whether any specific recommendation has been made by the panel so far; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. A Committee under the chairmanship of Finance Secretary with the Secretaries, Deptt. of Expenditure, Deptt. of Programme Implementation, the concerned administrative Ministries/Deptt. as members, has been constituted to review the cases of time and cost overruns in respect of large projects, each costing Rs. 200 Crores and above.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Finalisation of Eighth Plan in the light of the performance of the Seventh Plan

788. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have reviewed the performance of the Seventh Plan;